Action Plan for Doubling Food Production

9. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering strategies for doubling food production in the next twenty years; what are the details of this strategic action plan;

(b) whether it is true that Government have identified thrust areas to concentrate on;

(c) what parts of Madhya Pradesh are covered under the plan; and

(d) what special steps are being considered for the Bundelkhand region of M.P. and U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) Sir, in consonance with the National Agenda for Governance envisaging doubling food production in the next ten years, the Planning Commission have suggested the following targets for various food items;

Food Items	Production Targets (Million Tonnes)		
	IX Plan (2001-02)	X Plan , (2006-07)	Action Plan (2007-08)
1	2	3	4
Rice	99.0	124.2	130.0
Wheat	83.0	104.1	109.0
Coarse Cereals	35.5	40.0	41.0
Pulses	16.5	19.4	20.0
Total foodgrains	234.0	287.7	300.0

1	2	3	4
Oilseeds	30.0	42.7	45.0
Sugarcane	336.0	435.2	495.0
Fruits and Vegetables	179.0	3Q7.2	342.0
Milk	87.0	121.5	130.0
Egg (Million Nos.)	3500.0	4928.6	5300.0
Fish	6.9	9.1	9.6

It may be mentioned that target of 'Doubling Food Production' includes not only foodgrain crops but also oilseeds, sugar fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs and fish production.

For doubling the food production, an Action Plan has been prepared on the basis of regionally differentiated strategy based on different agro-climatic zones. The main features of the strategy for crops are as follows:

(a) Promoting cropping system approach of increasing the production and productivity of cereals crops as a whole against the individual crop approach. Encouragement will be given to follow green manuring and use of compost and other organic sources;

(b) Encouraging varietal replacement and propagation of newer location specific High Yielding Varieties with biotic and abiotic resistance;

(c) Improving the resource base of the farmers and encouraging devices for efficient water management for timely and effective field operations;

(d) Popularisation of improved crop production technologies through organisation of field demonstrations on farmer's holdings and training of farmer's and farm labourers including women;

(e) Encouraging the integrated nutrient management for sustainable agricultural production;

(f) Greater emphasis on the adoption of Integrated Pest Management Approach to control the pests and diseases and

also use of weedicides to control the weed menace to crops;

(g) More emhasis on the proper adoption of non-monetary inputs like timely sowing, maintaining optimum plant population, efficient use of fertiliser and need based plant protection measures; and

(h) Extension education efforts will be strengthened to make farmers more receptive to new technology.

For achieving these targets of foodgrains production, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a number of Centrally sponsored and Centrai Sector Schemes in different states of the country, including Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Low productivity of crops in Eastern Region

10. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the low productivity of food crops in the Eastern States, including the Chhattisgarh region of Madhya Pradesh has not allowed the full benefits of green revolution to flow to the farmers of these States;

(b) what special steps are envisaged for this region;

(c) whether Government will consider a special package to be implemented at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Crop development programmes have been launched to extend the benefit of green revolution in Eastern States but agro-climatic conditions of Eastern States including the Chhattisgarh region of Madhya Pradesh is such that inspite of efforts made, the productivity of food crops is low and has not allowed the full benefits of green revolution to flow to the farmers as it has happened in Northern States.